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Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

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CONTENTS

13 October 1989

EAST AFRICA

Ethiopia

Rebels Reportedly 'Liberated' Northern Province [<i>Voice of Tigray Revolution</i>]	1
Rebel Battle Report [<i>Voice of Tigray Revolution</i>]	1
Rebels Said 'in Virtual Control' [<i>AFP</i>]	1

Uganda

NRC Extension Bill Unanimously Approved [<i>Kampala Radio</i>]	2
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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Sisulu, 4 Prisoners Said Flown to Johannesburg [<i>SAPA</i>]	3
5 Prisoners Transferred [<i>Umtata Radio</i>]	3
Restriction Order on Albertina Sisulu Lifted [<i>SAPA</i>]	3
1,200 Miners Strike at De Beers Mines [<i>SAPA</i>]	3
Further Reportage on Release of Prisoners	3
Banning Orders To Be Lifted [<i>THE CITIZEN 13 Oct</i>]	3
De Klerk Given 'Credit' [<i>THE STAR 12 Oct</i>]	4
NUM Expects Phased Release [<i>SAPA</i>]	4
Sisulu Family Speculates [<i>SAPA</i>]	4
Tutu, Chikane News Conference on De Klerk Talks [<i>SAPA</i>]	5
Municipalities Figure Lauds De Klerk-Tutu Talks [<i>SAPA</i>]	7
Commentary Applauds Talks [<i>Johannesburg Radio</i>]	7
Rockman: Police Brutality Trial Outcome Ridiculous [<i>SAPA</i>]	7
MDM Cautions Thatcher on Commonwealth Position [<i>SAPA</i>]	8
Mandela Said Concerned About Nation's Violence [<i>SAPA</i>]	8
COSATU Issues Rules for 14 Oct Marches [<i>SAPA</i>]	8
Cape Town Council Approves March [<i>SAPA</i>]	9
Albertina Sisulu To Lead March [<i>SAPA</i>]	9
Democratic Party Delegation To Visit PRC [<i>SAPA</i>]	10
12 Oct Press Review on Current Problems, Issues	10
13 Oct Press Review	11

WEST AFRICA

Ivory Coast

Political Bureau Lifts Ban on JEUNE AFRIQUE [<i>Abidjan Radio</i>]	13
--	----

Liberia

Vice President Leads Delegation to Taiwan [<i>Monrovia Radio ELWA</i>]	13
BBC Interviews Minister on Break With PRC	13
Government Reacts to Break [<i>Monrovia Radio ELWA</i>]	13
Minister Denies U.S. Influence [<i>AFP</i>]	14

Ethiopia

Rebels Reportedly 'Liberated' Northern Province

EA1010150289 (Clandestine) Voice of the Tigray
Revolution in Amharic to Ethiopia 0400 GMT 10 Oct 89

[Text] Continuing its efforts to bring nationwide and lasting peace and democracy, the people's army of the heroic Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front [EPRDF], backed by various popular forces, has fully liberated Gayint Province by destroying the invading Workers Party of Ethiopia [WPE] soldiers at the town of Nefas Mewch'a in Gonder administrative region. [martial music]

The people of Gayint Province are very happy that the requests they made to the EPRDF through their representatives, to get rid of the oppressive enemy, have been answered in a practical way. Therefore, they have affirmed their determination to fight alongside the EPRDF against the fascist enemy. The fascist Dergue's plot to incite the people against the EPRDF has been completely foiled by the wise action of the EPRDF. This victory was achieved because the people of [words indistinct] who were armed to fight the EPRDF, refused the WPE's orders. The fascist WPE armed hundreds of thousands of peasants in the area for its antipeace mission against the EPRDF. But these people, who were eagerly awaiting their class brothers in the EPRDF, are now helping the EPRDF to pursue the WPE soldiers, who are fleeing with their tails between their legs.

The operation that fully liberated Gayint Province took place on 8 October 1989. It lasted 3 and 1/2 hours, from 0500 to 0830.

Listeners, we will report the details of this successful operation in our (?next) program.

Rebel Battle Report

EA1110132589 (Clandestine) Voice of the Tigray
Revolution in Tigrinya to Ethiopia 0445 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Excerpts] Details of the colorful victory scored by the People's Army of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front [EPRDF] over the Workers Party of Ethiopia [WPE] troops stationed in Gayint Province, Gonder Region. [passage omitted]

Human losses inflicted on the enemy: 556 troops killed, 467 wounded and 329 troops and 254 territorial militia captured.

Arms and property captured: 4 BM-21 rockets, strategic weapons, 2 ZU-23 heavy weapons, 2 14.5 heavy weapons [as heard], 2 120-mm mortars, 46 medium guns, 1,782 light guns, 15 various kinds of radio communications sets, 23 various kinds of vehicles, 600 various kinds of explosives. Enemy weapons destroyed: three ZU-23 heavy weapons. [passage omitted]

In another development, the heroic EPRDF People's Army attacked and inflicted heavy losses on invading WPE troops, advancing on (Delago), at Weidiya front with the aim of perpetrating antipeace and antipeople acts. In the engagement, which took place on 7 October 1989, the People's Army of the EPRDF killed 310 WPE troops, wounded 440, and captured 11 others. In addition, large quantities of weapons were seized. [passage omitted]

Rebels Said 'in Virtual Control'

AB1110092289 Paris AFP in English 0751 GMT
11 Oct 89

[By Veronica Forwood]

[Text] Addis Ababa, Oct 11 (AFP)—Tigray rebels who have stormed south through the canyons and gorges of northern Wollo Province are posing a new threat to the military regime of Lieutenant Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam, which survived an attempted coup just five months ago.

The offensive, launched at the end of August, has now come to a halt around Weldiya, but diplomats here believe the rebels are preparing to strike at the key lifeline, the road from the Red Sea port of Assab, along which 85 per cent of the country's vital imports pass, including almost all of its petroleum.

The military regime has been throwing reinforcements into the area around Dessie, the South Wollo capital, and has apparently opened a counter-offensive against a second prong of the rebel attack to the west in Gondar Province.

Diplomats say the future of the regime could depend on whether the Ethiopian Army, Africa's biggest and best equipped, can hold together in the face of this new menace.

The ease and swiftness of the rebel offensive from seizing the south Tigray town of Maychew to reaching Waldiye, some 150 kilometres (90 miles) south is evidence of the demoralisation of the largely conscript Ethiopian Army.

The TPLF [Tigray People's Liberation Front] claimed September 20 that in the course of its advance it killed or wounded 17,000 government troops and captured 10,300.

The military's weakness is further compounded by the loss of fourteen generals who were killed during and just after the May 16 aborted coup and by the fact that an estimated 100 senior officers, including generals, are in prison awaiting trial.

"All the indications are that the Army seems to be crumbling," one diplomat said.

The TPLF, which before launching its offensive, allied with the Ethiopian People's Democratic Movement (EPDM), to form the Ethiopian People's Democratic

Revolutionary Front (EPDRF), has switched its objectives from seeking greater autonomy to an all-out bid to topple the government.

"The significance of their action is not that they are going to march down the road to Addis Ababa at any time, but that it increases tensions and problems for the regime itself," another diplomatic source said.

The Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF), which is to resume negotiations with the government in Nairobi on November 18, is reported to have backed the TPLF in its new offensive by moving into positions vacated in Tigray to allow rebel forces to move forward.

At the same time the Ethiopian Government has seen the Soviet Union, while still remaining its ally, refusing to continue underwriting military solutions to the country's insurgency problems.

Soviet Vice Defence Minister and Chief of the Armed Forces, V.I. Varrenikov, spent 10 days in the country last month and is reported to have opened negotiations for a reduction in Soviet military advisers in the country, believed to number around 600.

The Ethiopian Government has been massively moving up reinforcements to the Dessie area and is estimated by diplomatic sources here to now have some 90,000 troops in south Wollo and some 60,000 in Gondar, where a counter-offensive is already under way in the region Bahir Dar, south on Lake Tana.

Ethiopian aviation has also been in action over the last ten days carrying out a series of air strikes.

The TPLF Radio reported October 7 on its Voice of the Tigray Revolution radio that 12 civilians were killed and 23 wounded in an air raid on Sekota, northern Wolo, for the second time in a week on October 3.

The government has said almost nothing about the offensive, apart from accusing rebels of inciting peasants to loot and destroy, exposing them as "fodder for artillery" and reporting the displacement of some 2,800 civilians. The TPLF is in virtual control of Tigray Province, including the capital Mekele, which it took in a major rebel counter-offensive in February this year.

Uganda

NRC Extension Bill Unanimously Approved

*EA1010205989 Kampala Domestic Service
in English 1900 GMT 10 Oct 89*

[Text] The National Resistance Council has unanimously passed the bill to extend the term of office of the

National Resistance Movement [NRM] government for 5 years from 26 January next year [1990].

Winding up the debate on the bill, the minister of justice and the attorney general, Dr George Kanyeihamba, thanked the members of the Council for their contribution. He said the bill received the attention and treatment deserved. He was happy to note that Uganda has high quality members of the [National Resistance Council], adding that the members expressed their views without being deterred or intimidated.

However, he observed that there were some contributors which sounded alarmist by asking for a period to consult their constituents. He said the issue of consulting the masses first is an illusion, and the contention of some people that the extension for 5 years of the NRM is a denial of human rights is a misquotation of the provision of the Human Rights Charter.

The main emphasis, Dr Kanyeihamba said, should be on the economic rights, the right to food to sustain life. He said the bill was presented after it was determined with scientific evidence and analysis. The minister said Uganda has experiencing an irreversible change in which NRM is the catalyst of that change.

Contributing to the motion, the first deputy prime minister, Mr Eriya Kategaya, thanked Mr Kanyeihamba, for the way he handled the debate where everyone who wanted to express his views was allowed. He was happy with the caliber of the members, who exhibited their democratic rights without any interference from the government. He particularly thanked the lady members for their good points and their contributions and said this is a good sign that women are now fully involved in the affairs of this country.

Mr Kategaya said the NRM succeeded in the struggle, not because of the gun alone but because of its good political line. He said if NRM exposed wrong policies, it would have lost the war. On some people's doubts that the NRM will stay in power forever, unless it provides some guarantees and assurances, the deputy prime minister said no one should doubt the NRM's sincerity.

Contributing to the debate, the minister of planning and economic development, Mr Mayanja Nkangi, said the NRM is a movement of freedom, the freedom of the people, and that the Army is the Army of the people for the people. Therefore, he said, it is an astonishment to hear that when the Army is consulted on the passing on the bill, it would mean that people are ignored. Our Army, he declared, is the army of the people.

Sisulu, 4 Prisoners Said Flown to Johannesburg

*MB1310102189 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1015 GMT 13 Oct 89*

[Text] Johannesburg Oct 13 SAPA—The prisons service would not confirm reports on Friday that Walter Sisulu and at least four other political prisoners expected to be released soon had been flown from Cape Town to Johannesburg in preparation for their release.

The prisons service has clamped a total news blackout on the release of the eight, announced by President F.W. de Klerk.

5 Prisoners Transferred

*MB1310125789 Umtata Capital Radio in English
1200 GMT 13 Oct 89*

[Text] It is reported that five of the eight political prisoners due to be released are now at the prison near Soweto. Sources say the five will be taken from Diepkloof Prison to separate police stations, and then returned to their homes on Sunday [15 October]. But it is possible that release dates might be brought forward. The home of one of the eight, Walter Sisulu, has already been staked out by journalists.

Government sources have confirmed that five of the prisoners have been sent to Johannesburg and another, Raymond Mlaba, was taken to Port Elizabeth. Oscar Mpetha will be transferred to a private clinic in Cape Town.

Restriction Order on Albertina Sisulu Lifted

*MB1310075089 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0749 GMT 13 Oct 89*

[Text] Johannesburg Oct 13 SAPA—Mrs Albertina Sisulu has had her restriction order lifted and believes her husband Walter's release from prison is imminent, she told SAPA on Friday.

Mrs Sisulu said a policeman visited her at home this morning and said her restriction order had been lifted by the government.

"That is wonderful..." she told SAPA in an interview, "because I was wondering how I could manage with Walter being unrestricted. This makes things a lot easier in my work and in my work with Walter."

She said she had not been told anything officially about the timing of her husband's release.

"Everything now points to it. Nobody has told me he is coming here now, but it does seem something must be happening today," she said.

Mrs Sisulu has been banned from attending meetings and public statements since February 1988.

1,200 Miners Strike at De Beers Mines

*MB1310082289 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0815 GMT 13 Oct 89*

[Text] Johannesburg Oct 13 SAPA—About 1,200 miners went on strike at De Beers Mines on Thursday [12 October] night, the company said on Friday.

The strikers were members of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), and had embarked on the strike over a wage dispute.

The mines affected are Premier, Kimberley, Finsch, Koffiefontein and Namaqualand, a spokesman for De Beers said in a statement.

Orderly picketing had been reported at one of the mines, but the strike has been peaceful at all the operations.

"The company believes that it would not be helpful to speculate on how long the strike may last.

"The company remains willing to continue negotiations with the union in an attempt to bring the dispute and the strike to an early end.

"The possibility of mediation in the negotiations has not been ruled out," De Beers' statement concluded.

Further Reportage on Release of Prisoners

Banning Orders To Be Lifted

*MB1310091989 Johannesburg THE CITIZEN
in English 13 Oct 89 p 4*

[By Brian Stuart]

[Text] Cape Town—The Government is to lift the banning orders on three of the security prisoners who are soon to be released in terms of the statement issued on Tuesday [10 October] night by the State President, Mr F.W. de Klerk.

The three—Raymond Mhlaba, Jafte Masemola and Ahmed Kathrada—were "listed" under the old Internal Security Act of 1950. In terms of that Act, a person who was "listed" could not be quoted.

This Act was replaced by the 1982 Internal Security Act, but the previous "listings" were then validated by the new Act.

Mr De Klerk announced on Tuesday that all eight men would be freed unconditionally.

Mr Kobie Coetsee, Minister of Justice, later confirmed that this meant there would be no restrictions placed on them when they were released. They would, in fact, be subject to the same laws as applied to other citizens.

Government sources yesterday confirmed that the "listings" would be removed, which requires publication in the Government Gazette.

"By the time they are freed, their names will have been removed from listings," THE CITIZEN was told yesterday.

Details were still not available as to where and when the various prisoners would be released. Prison authorities said this depended on the circumstances of each individual.

However, the releases are expected to take place in Pretoria and Port Elizabeth within the next few days, with only one of the prisoners, Oscar Mpetha, who is in Groote Schuur Hospital, being released in Cape Town.

The eight prisoners to be released include five who were convicted with Nelson Mandela at the 1964 Rivonia trial. They are Walter Sisulu (77), Ahmed Kathrada (60), Andrew Mlangeni (63), Elias Motsoaledi (65) and Raymond Mhlaba 69.

The other three are Oscar Mpetha (80) Wilton Mkwayi (66), and Jaftha Masemula, 71.

De Klerk Given 'Credit'

MB1210123489 Johannesburg THE STAR
in English 12 Oct 89 p 16

[Editorial]

[Text] At last, the logjam moves. It is early days yet, but the imminent, unconditional, release of eight key security prisoners can be seen as a start towards creating the long-awaited "climate for negotiation." It follows that the release of Nelson Mandela, the most important single player, cannot now be far off. That accomplished, a major obstacle to negotiation will have been disposed of—and the way cleared to remove the others and get on with shaping a new South Africa.

Precisely what is holding up Mr Mandela's release is not clear at this point. There may be some unstated arrangement between him and the Government. This conclusion stems from the talks he has had in prison over the past two years with Mr Kobie Coetsee; from the assurance he apparently gave to President Botha several months ago about his constructive intentions; and from the latest talks which two senior ministers held with him on Kruger Day.

It could be that the plan is to release the leader not into a political vacuum but into some sort of negotiating situation which is still being quietly set up. Or perhaps Pretoria still has security fears about the impact his return might have in the townships, and wishes to lessen it. In this context the earlier release of Walter Sisulu and his fellow prisoners could be seen as testing the waters.

Mr Mandela's meeting this week with leaders of the Mass Democratic Movement might suggest they were discussing how to handle the return to society of the eight. If it goes off without trouble this will help clear the way for Mr Mandela's own release—and its corollaries,

the unbanning of the ANC [African National Congress] and other bodies and the release of other prisoners.

As the scenario starts to unfold, three things are clear. First, negotiations cannot begin without a freed Mandela. Second, that step cannot be long delayed—the momentum must be maintained. And, third, President de Klerk deserves all due credit for translating a major promise into deeds. We trust he will show equal resolution in pressing on with the next inevitable steps.

NUM Expects Phased Release

MB1210143489 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1424 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] Johannesburg, Oct 12, SAPA—The release of the eight political prisoners in the immediate future would probably be phased and would not take place all at once.

National Mineworkers Secretary-General Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, who is a member of a national reception committee which is arranging a welcome for the eight, said on Thursday he had gained the impression from talks with people close to the prisoners that a staggered release was most likely. He could not say when the first release would take place.

Mr Ramaphosa said the ANC [African National Congress] leaders who had been in prison for more than two decades would wish to travel to meet the ANC leadership in exile.

He hoped the government would supply them with the necessary travel documents to do this because, as members of the ANC, they were accountable and needed to report to the leadership in exile.

If the government did not give them passports, then it would be a clear indication it was not serious about engaging in negotiations to bring about a peaceful South Africa.

Sisulu Family Speculates

MB1210193389 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1927 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] Johannesburg Oct 12 SAPA—Walter Sisulu, former ANC [African National Congress] secretary general whose pending freedom along with seven others was announced this week, may be released as early as Friday [13 October].

The Sisulu family have been asked by a high ranking member of the South African Police not to visit him on Friday in Cape Town from Johannesburg, a family spokesman told SAPA on Thursday evening.

Prior to this, a member of the Sisulu family had telephoned Pollsmoor Prison to make arrangements to visit Sisulu and was given the green light.

A spokesman for the family said the change may mean the authorities would be busy processing Sisulu's release in preparation for the weekend.

It could also mean he would be flown to Johannesburg on Friday and released the same day or over the weekend.

According to people who have seen Sisulu recently, he has not lost his revolutionary fire or his zeal. During the Rivonia trial in 1964, Sisulu pledged to achieve emancipation for his people and destroy white domination.

"His people await his return with joyous hearts," and anti-apartheid activist said.

Asked how Sisulu had kept abreast of national and international developments, if he was not allowed to discuss politics with his visitors, a family spokesman said: "He listens to the radio, watches TV and reads several newspapers. And there are always books."

Unlike the other prisoners being released, Sisulu is still kept in relative isolation.

Tutu, Chikane News Conference on De Klerk Talks

MB1210112089 Johannesburg SAPA in English
2149.GMT 11 Oct 89

[SAPA wire service issued by Church of the Province on the news conference by Anglican Archbishop Tutu and Dr Chikane, general secretary of the South African Council of Churches, at St Alban's Cathedral after meeting with State President F.W. de Klerk 11 October]

[Text] [No dateline as received]—Opening remarks by Archbishop Tutu:

The Archbishop noted that the meeting was far better than "...the last time I had an encounter with a state president (with Mr P.W. Botha in March last year)."

He continued:

"We met with President de Klerk and Dr Viljoen and we must say the fact of our having had intensive discussions for 21/2 hours indicates the seriousness with which we tackled the issues that we raised.

"The understanding which was articulated by Dr Viljoen was that there was agreement with our points, to the extent of saying they, the government wanted to: normalise the security situation—that refers to the lifting of the state of emergency; normalise the legislative situation—move away from discriminatory legislation; find an acceptance way of identifying those who would be regarded as authentic representatives of the various constituencies; and, fourthly determining the mode in which negotiations would happen.

"We made it clear that we had come not as negotiations but as those who sought to facilitate the process of negotiation by helping to create the climate that we believe would be conducive to negotiations, by our

indicating certain key items that we believe the government would be able to undertake in the short term, the medium term, and finally.

"We come away impressed that there is a concern, such as we were expressing, and we were listened to, yes, but we have to say that we did not have specifics (from the government) such as we would be able to satisfy those whom we believe we were representing."

Opening remarks by Dr Chikane: "Let me just make some additional points on our discussions. We made it quite clear to the state president that his open door statement is a statement that is not going to make negotiations possible, nor is it going to facilitate the process of negotiations. As long as...the leaders who represent the majority of the people are under chains, their hands are tied.

"You cannot talk about negotiations when people are under restrictions and those who are in exile can't participate and their organisations are banned or restricted. They won't be able to consult with anybody after they have had such talks. We made them (the government) understand that their open door policy excludes the majority of the people unless they meet those first six points that we have stated, and that their policy of negotiations is a non-starter until they have actually met those conditions.

"Secondly...we noted that we start from different premises and understand the concepts that are used differently...they raised questions about who the leaders of black people are. We made it quite clear that you can't determine the leadership if you don't allow the people to organise freely, and interact freely and have elections for all the people of South Africa so that you've got a representative constituent type of assembly that will determine the constitution of this country in terms of the negotiation process.

"If their negotiation is that of consultations with people it's not going to resolve our problems...they have restated their commitment to negotiations (and) ending...apartheid laws—that which...the state president had said in his inaugural speech already—but they have not moved beyond rhetoric. We have said we would like to see movement to meet those (six) conditions, then we can say to our people: 'Now we have arrived.' But until those are met, we have no basis to say you can begin to enter into negotiations.

"We are not negotiating. We are going there just to establish the conditions. Our people can't (negotiate), because they cannot to to the negotiations. I told them an example: That Mohammed Valli for instance wanted to talk to me before I came here but he couldn't come with to the airport (to meet the Archbishop and Dr Boesak) because he has restrictions on him. You can't consult if you are restricted and you can't be representative if you can't consult with people.

"I think the important thing is that we need the government to move on those six things and if they move on them, then we can begin to talk about how you get about negotiations."

Archbishop Tutu and Dr Chikane then answered questions from journalists at the news conference.

Questions:

(1) On when the "eight" will be released? Archbishop: "What we did say was that whilst it was a dramatic act, it was going to be undermined in its significance by the people not being free agents...not being able to...consult, talk with this, that and the other person."

"Our concern is that negotiations should get off the ground—genuine negotiations. Why we took the initiative to approach the state president is precisely (that) we seek a way out of the impasse, a way of resolving the crisis of our country. We have a tremendous country, with incredible potential. Once we are out of this morass that has been caused by apartheid, we will just take off."

(2) On the government's response to the "six points"? Dr Chikane: "As we have said, we have not got concrete responses (from the government) to give us a timetable to say, 'yes, we (the government) are going to end the state of emergency, we are going to release people within this period.' We cannot take an intention expressed in general that if the conditions are convenient, we (the government) will consider doing that. It's not enough for us, they've said it before. We had gone to that meeting to get a specific undertaking."

"We need to say that we gave the state president an assurance that he doesn't have to...fear the implications of ending the state of emergency, unbanning organisations, both inside (SA [South Africa]) and the liberation movements in exile: That there will be peace if he does that within the context of negotiations. It means you say, 'apartheid is ending, we are releasing everybody else, derestricting people, unbanning organisations, we are going to the negotiation table.'"

"We gave him an undertaking that will assure him that there will be no confrontation, no violence, nothing. But if that is not done, there is no way we in which we can make assurances. We have assured him of the goodwill of our people. It's amazing how peaceful our people are, but they've been forced to situations that they've gone into. We raised the question of the liberation movements as well, that they are there (outside South Africa) because of the problems (inside) and that we hope that once the intention to remove apartheid is stated, then we wouldn't be debating about those issues."

Archbishop Tutu: "And also the assurance that none of us wants further sanctions, even present sanctions, if we were to get the kind of commitment that we were asking for in a specific timetable. We said we would be ready to say to our friends, 'put your sanctions programmes on hold, because it appears to us that there is a commitment

here which we can accept. There have been certain first acts that have been taken which are the first fruits, as it were, and therefore we think you should put it on hold because we think that the thing we want—the ending of apartheid and the emergence of a new dispensation—are going to be happening."

Dr Chikane: "We are in a position where, without concrete steps, it is difficult for us to reach that particular position. We need those concrete steps..."

(3) On Mr de Klerk's statements that his "door is open"?

Dr Chikane: "The door is open for those who come to agree with them. For those who don't, it is not open. Because then people were detained during Mr de Klerk's time (as president), they've come out with heavy restrictions and they've not committed any crime that they can be found guilty of."

"Even for those marches, there has not been a response to the petitions and memoranda that have been presented to the government and so you can't talk about people stopping protest when you don't have concrete results. They will protest as long as apartheid is there...."

"They (people) can't give them (the government) time because they have no defined time scale. We tried to say, 'give us your timescale, programme, timetable.' If there is no timetable, you can't say to people, 'wait' because they would like to know, how long and for what...."

Archbishop Tutu: "We also did say that we have always worked on the premise that the Afrikaner, of all the white groups, would be in our view the persons, the group, that ought to know how we feel, having had the kind of history they have had. (We) assure(d) them that we have such a view of human beings that we would not want them to become less 'Afrikaner' in a free South Africa."

"We would like them to be who they are so they can make that distinctive contribution to the new South Africa which only the Afrikaner can make, just as much as the German or whatever. They don't have to worry whether Afrikaans is going to disappear. We didn't use that specific example but that is what we were seeking to say, because he (Mr de Klerk) was saying that as much as we have problems that are real, he has problems. And we recognised that, but we are saying, without putting pistols to anybody's head, that if these things happened, we for our part would be able to say to our people, give them a chance, we think they are serious."

(4) Do you plan on having any more talks with the state president?

Archbishop Tutu: "We keep saying we are committed to a resolution of the crisis and we are in constituencies and organisations that will say, 'you are in the business of talking.' We already face a problem. In the black community, there very many who call in question what we have done today, who say, 'What is the point,' but we are...servants and we would have to report back to those

who tell us the things that they expect us to do. I am going to have to report to the synod of bishops (of the Anglican Church) in November because part of what I am doing is...what the bishops have said ought to happen...."

Dr Chikane: "It has to be understood that we have gone there because we are demonstrating our willingness to resolve problems. But if results do not come out—and we hope results can come out of it—then...talking gets discredited. That is our worry, you need to produce results if you talk...without results you can't get negotiations happening."

Municipalities Figure Lauds De Klerk-Tutu Talks

*MB1210193689 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1929 GMT 12 Oct 89*

[Text] Johannesburg, Oct 12, SAPA—Botha blacks and whites had to demonstrate their sincerity to create the right climate for successful negotiations in South Africa, Mr Tom Boya, president of the United Municipalities of South Africa, said Thursday.

In a statement supporting the talks between the state president and the church delegation on Wednesday, Mr Boya agreed the root of the problem in this country was the wide gap caused by mistrust.

"What is important is the creation of a climate in which mutual trust can grow and a positive climate for negotiations can be created.

"Both blacks and whites must demonstrate their sincerity to make a success of this endeavour," Mr Boya said.

The government should demonstrate its true bona fides by repealing all discriminatory legislation, while blacks should commit themselves to the path of non-violence.

The release of political prisoners, Mr Boya said, would be meaningless if other obstacles in the path of negotiations were not removed. He believed the time had come to bury the hatchet and build a new South Africa without a bloodbath.

Commentary Applauds Talks

*MB1310053689 Johannesburg Domestic Service
in English 0500 GMT 13 Oct 89*

[Station commentary: "Recent Progress in Negotiation Politics."]

[Text] A number of church leaders have been in the forefront of protest politics. Their strategy has ranged from advocating international sanctions to organizing street marches. The meeting this week between the state president and some of the country's more politically active clergymen will help prevent the undesirable development of a climate of confrontation and mistrust between the state and the church. Indeed, the meeting

was one in a series being held by President de Klerk to break down the basic measure of mistrust between the government and other leaders in the country that Mr de Klerk has identified as a major obstacle on the road of negotiations.

The replacing of mistrust with a climate of trust is important to the process of creating an appropriate environment for negotiations between all authentic leaders. The release from prison of Walter Sisulu and seven other security prisoners is part of this process. The process itself is not one that can be rushed, or for which timetables can be set. It has two main phases. The first and current phase is one in which leaders must be identified and issues identified that are seen as obstacles to the second phase centering on the actual negotiations on South Africa's future political and constitutional dispensation.

The church delegation that met President de Klerk this week presented a list of issues it perceived to be obstacles to negotiations proper. Mr de Klerk gave a commitment to the delegation that the government would address these issues in an orderly manner. This can be seen as a further contribution towards bridging the gap between the government and other leaders in the country. In this process, there is also a responsibility on other leaders to help bridge the gap.

The removal of obstacles in building a climate of trust and the first "talks about talks" phase of negotiations is therefore not a one-way stream. Contributions must come from all sides. The starting point is the emphasizing of points of agreement rather than points of disagreement. President de Klerk, in his talks with the church delegation this week, committed himself once again to a peaceful and democratic road to the vote for all South Africans and to the sharing of power by all.

These are principles to which church leaders, and others, can subscribe. It is common ground such as this on which authentic leaders can construct a climate of confidence and trust which in turn can form a secure foundation for constructive negotiations on the future.

Rockman: Police Brutality Trial Outcome Ridiculous

*MB1210110489 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1053 GMT 12 Oct 89*

[By Ben MacLennan]

[Text] Cape Town Oct 12 SAPA—The exculpation of two Cape Town riot squad officers on charges of assault on Thursday was a "licence for beating", Lieutenant Gregory Rockman said after hearing the verdict.

Lt Rockman, whose allegations of police brutality led to the prosecution of Major Charles Brazelle and Lieutenant David Roos and was the first state witness in the trial, told local and international pressmen and television crews he could not believe the men had been found not guilty.

"It is ridiculous what the outcome was—the state of emergency protected them and that is why they were found not guilty," he said. "The magistrate made that clear. This means that they can go around beating people. I don't accept it."

Lt Rockman also criticised the preparation of the prosecution's case. "So many people were beaten. Why didn't they call everybody?" he asked.

"It's not going to stop here. I've seen many beatings in Mitchell's Plain (where he is stationed, and where the alleged assaults with which the two officers were charged took place) and I'm going to challenge those too.

"Those people of Mitchell's Plain won't feel good about this—they were brutally beaten."

Asked about his own future, he said he took each day as it came. He would stay on in the police force. "If they want me out they will have to kick me out."

He said he still wanted to see the state president, Mr F.W. de Klerk, on police violence.

Lt Rockman was greeted with shouts of "Viva Rockman" from bystanders as he emerged from the Wynberg Regional Court, where the trial took place.

MDM Cautions Thatcher on Commonwealth Position

*MB1210144789 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1411 GMT 12 Oct 89*

[Text] Johannesburg Oct 12 SAPA—British Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher would risk becoming the polecat in the eyes of Commonwealth nations if she persisted in her attitude that South Africa was moving in the right direction because of her policy of quiet diplomacy, the Mass Democratic Movement [MDM] said on Thursday.

In a statement read by National Union of Mineworkers' Secretary-General Mr Cyril Ramaphosa on behalf of the MDM, the organization said it seemed Mrs Thatcher was going to the Commonwealth conference in Kuala Lumpur next week with the attitude that Mr F.W. de Klerk was at last moving in the right direction.

She appeared to have the singleminded objective of attributing the move in South Africa to her "quiet diplomacy".

"We warn her that should she persist in this direction, she runs the risk of once more becoming the polecat in the eyes of all the other member states of the Commonwealth."

The statement said that according to the "OAU document" the international community would not lift its pressure against apartheid South Africa unless the democratic right to participation in the decision-making structures had been concerned to all the country's people.

Mandela Said Concerned About Nation's Violence

*MB1210150289 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1500 GMT 12 Oct 89*

[Text] Johannesburg Oct 12 SAPA—Imprisoned ANC [African National Congress] leader Nelson Mandela was concerned about the violence in the country, but his view was that he could not enter into negotiations with the government as a prisoner, according to Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, a member of delegation which visited Mr Mandela this week.

Speaking at the formation of a committee to welcome the eight political prisoners due to be released soon, he said Mr Mandela was in good health and "intellectually stimulating".

He had been with Mr Mandela when the release of Walter Sisulu and seven others were announced. Mrs Albertina Sisulu had embraced Mr Mandela, and said she wished he had been coming out with her husband.

Mr Mandela told the delegation he had been in on talks with the authorities about the release of his fellow prisoners, but had at no stage asked for his own release. "He believe this should be left to others to do."

In his contact with the government, he had urged it to talk the ANC leadership and had expressed support for the MDM's [Mass Democratic Movement] tactics and strategies.

Mr Ramaphosa said Mr Mandela closely resembled the paintings which had recently been done of him, although he was not as wrinkled and his hair was only partly grey. He still had a booming voice and an imposing presence.

COSATU Issues Rules for 14 Oct Marches

*MB1210180789 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1736 GMT 12 Oct 89*

[Text] Johannesburg, Oct 12, SAPA—The following are rules for marchers and marshalls compiled by the Congress of South African Trade Unions [COSATU] for the marches which are to take place across South Africa on Saturday (October 14).

Rules for marchers:

1. The march is to be disciplined and peaceful.
2. All marchers are to walk, not run.
3. The COSATU CEC [Central Executive Committee] will lead the march.
4. Workers are to march abreast, in rows of between 8 to 12.
5. All members of the crowd are to immediately obey instructions of the marshalls, who will be identified by arm-bands.
6. Anyone acting provocatively or not peacefully, or not listening to instructions of the marshalls, will be considered to be acting against the peaceful intentions of the march and in the interests of the enemy.

7. Workers should not respond to provocative actions. If there are any problems, workers must not take matters into their own hands, but report the situation to the marshalls.

8. Marchers are to keep on the streets and stay away from shops, etc.

Rules and structure for Marshalls:

1. Marshalls will be divided as follows: chief marshall, group marshall leaders, runners, marshalls.

Chief marshall:

His duties will be:

- Overall coordination of the march.
- Relaying instructions from the leaders of the march to the crowd.
- Helping deal with any confrontational situation.
- He will liaise directly with the group marshall leaders.
- His decision is final.

Group marshall leaders:

Their duties will be:

- Relaying instructions from the chief marshall to marshalls.
- They will look after an allocated group—for example, left front, or back right.
- There will be 40 group marshall leaders, with nine marshalls working with them. (40 teams of 10)

Runners:

Their duties will be:

- To pass any messages quickly from one part of the crowd to another, or between the chief marshall, marshall stewards, and marshalls.

Marshalls:

- Their chief duty is to maintain order and discipline and ensure a peaceful, well-run and successful march.
- Will take and obey instructions from group marshall leaders only.
- Will immediately inform their group marshall leader of a problem or crisis.

Rules for all marshalls:

1. Marshalls are to stay on the outside of the crowd.
2. Marshalls are to ensure a steady pace is kept and the crowd stays together.
3. Marshalls are to be alert for any sign of trouble—for example, agent provocateurs trying to persuade crowd to break shop windows, racists throwing eggs.
4. Marshalls are to keep their minds on their job and not get carried away and start toying-toying [dancing].
5. Marshalls are to be allocated sections of the crowd—for example, first five rows, and stay with that section for the entire march.

[Johannesburg SAPA in English at 1714 GMT on 12 October, in a related report, notes that 14 October protest marches are planned for Pretoria, Johannesburg, Pietersburg, Secunda, Nelspruit, Standerton, Witbank, and the National Union of Mineworkers' offices in

Transvaal; Durban, Pietermaritzburg, Port Shepstone and Empangeni in Natal; Bloemfontein, Welkom, and Kroonstad in the Orange Free State; and Port Elizabeth and Cape Town in Cape Province.]

Cape Town Council Approves March

MB1210190989 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1857 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] Cape Town Oct 12 SAPA—The Cape Town City Council on Thursday gave the go-ahead for a march on Saturday sat to Parliament by members of unions affiliated to COSATU [Congress of South African Trade Unions] and the National Council of Trade Unions, council spokesmar Ted Doman said.

Thousands of workers and their supporters are set to join protest marches against the Labour Relations Amendment Act (LRA) in most major centres.

Mr Doman said council officials and attorneys acting for the convensors agreed to Keizersgracht Street, near the Castle, as an alternative venue to the parade.

The Cape Town march is due to start at 1000 and will proceed along Darling, Adderley, Bureau, Spin and Plain Streets to the Tuynhuys entrance to Parliament, where demands on the LRA will be handed over.

Earlier this week, a COSATU spokesman said it had not yet been decided who the demands would be handed to.

Marchers will then move up Roeland Street into Buitenkant Street and back to the gathering point.

In Johannesburg, both the chief magistrate and Johannesburg City Council on Thursday granted permission for a march which is expected to draw up to 50,000 people and be led by senior COSATU officials, a COSATU spokesman said.

COSATU and the NACTU had also planned marches in Pretoria, Durban, Bloemfontein and Port Elizabeth, as well as smaller industrial towns.

Albertina Sisulu To Lead March

MB1310104389 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1038 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Text] Johannesburg Oct 13 SAPA—One of the first protest acts for Mrs Albertina Sisulu in her new-found "freedom" following the lifting of restrictions on her on Friday will be to join a protest march through the streets of Johannesburg on Saturday [14 October] morning.

Mrs Sisulu, co-president of the United Democratic Front, told reporters interviewing her at her Soweto home on Friday she would participate in the march, organised by COSATU [Congress of South African Trade Union] in protest against the Labour Relations Amendment Act.

In terms of her restrictions Mrs Sisulu had not been allowed to participate in mass political activities or speak to the press and was confined to her home at night.

Although there were reports on Friday that her husband, ANC [African National Congress] leader Walter Sisulu, and four of the eight political prisoners whose imminent release was announced on Tuesday [10 October] this week, had travelled by air to Johannesburg from Cape Town, Mrs Sisulu did not believe he would be home before this evening.

She said the authorities would delay Mr Sisulu's release, as had been done when other important prisoners had been released, in an attempt to avoid attracting too much attention to his arrival at home.

About 35 foreign and local journalists were however camping in the Sisulu front yard in wait of Mr Sisulu.

Mrs Sisulu dispelled rumours that her husband would after his release live in the Transkei homeland at a house which had apparently been built for him in Umtata. "He is coming back here to 8155 Orlando West (the Sisulu address)," she said.

On Friday the Sisulu home was a bustle of activity. The inside was being repainted and huge amounts of food were being prepared in the kitchen.

She said the order lifting restrictions on her, which was read to her by a security policemen who arrived at the Sisulu home about 7.40am on Friday, had come as "a total but very welcome surprise".

"The whole time since I heard that Walter would be released unconditionally I have been wondering how things will work with him being allowed out at night and to talk to whoever he wishes and me sitting at home in the evenings, gagged."

She believed the move would allow her to take a more active public role in the various organisations with which she was involved, such as the United Democratic Front and Federation of Transvaal Women.

Democratic Party Delegation To Visit PRC

*MB1210102989 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0846 GMT 12 Oct 89*

[Text] Johannesburg Oct 12 SAPA—A Democratic Party [DP] delegation are leaving South Africa for Hong Kong on Friday [13 October] en route for mainland China where they will be the guests of the Chinese Association for International Understanding.

A statement from the DP on Thursday said the delegation consisted of Mr Peter Soal, MP for Johannesburg North, Mr Neil Ross, national director of the DP, and DR Gavin Lewis, director of the head office of the South Africa Foundation.

In China the delegation will visit Guangzhon (Canton), Peking and Shanghai.

Mr Soal will meet with a number of political and business leaders in Hong Kong and will also address the Foreign Correspondent's Club.

Mr Ross and Dr Lewis will return to South Africa after a fortnight and Mr Soal will travel to Canada and the United States of America where he has a number of speaking engagements and appointments with politicians and pressmen in Washington and New York.

12 Oct Press Review on Current Problems, Issues

MB1210125689

[Editorial Report]

THE CITIZEN

Prisoner Release 'Courageous Move'—The Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English of 12 October declares in a page 6 editorial: "The release of the former general secretary of the African National Congress [ANC], Walter Sisulu, and seven other security prisoners is generally accepted as a courageous move by the State President, Mr F.W. de Klerk." "Obviously the government believes there will not be trouble—Mandela's release may well be dependent on Sisulu and the others not doing anything that will cause violence and give the government second thoughts about freeing Mandela. If there is serious trouble, if the release of the top 'political' prisoners causes township unrest to flare again, the whole peace process will suffer a severe setback. Sisulu and the others, as well as Mandela, know this is so. We hope they will act in the interests of peace and not re-engage in the kind of activity that resulted in their being jailed." "We must hand it to Mr de Klerk that he has kept his word that the release of security prisoners would be looked at on an on-going basis." "We welcome the release of the eight and hope profoundly that it will help to get negotiations going."

SOWETAN

Government 'Playing Games' With Prisoner Release—"The government has a way of soaring the little good that it does," says an editorial on page 6 of the Johannesburg SOWETAN in English of 12 October. "On Tuesday it announced the impending unconditional release of Mr Walter Sisulu, Mr Japhta Masemola, and six other security prisoners—and the whole world applauded." "It was only later that it became clear that the men would not be released yesterday; that they were still going to be transferred to prisons near their homes; that they were still going to spend a few more hours in custody. The government should have made arrangements for the men to be released immediately after the announcement. The clumsy arrangements seem to prove that the Government is again playing games: giving as little information as possible to the public, but at the same time trying to make capital out of an act that should have been done years ago." "If the men owed society a debt, they paid it years ago. They should have been released more gracefully."

TRANSVALER

Democratic Party's 'Artificial' Troika—Johannesburg TRANSVALER in Afrikaans on 9 October comments in a page 6 editorial: "It was unavoidable. The loose marriage of three factions in the leftist politics almost ended in a break-up at the first national congress of the Democratic Party [DP]. And now, despite the facade of unity presented with great effort, the supposed togetherness appears rather suspicious." "Such an artificial situation cannot be conducive to the DP's planning for the future. Sooner or later the tension will pop the seams."

DIE BURGER

'Approval' of De Klerk New Management Style—Cape Town DIE BURGER in Afrikaans on 6 October notes in a page 22 editorial: "From President F.W. de Klerk's new government comes growing evidence of a management style that is more in step with the circumstances in which South Africa finds itself. It should find broad approval."

Transkei Independence Decision—DIE BURGER says in another editorial on the same page: "It seems Transkeians will have to decide whether they want to remain independent or whether they want to link up with South Africa in some way or another. Transkeian leader, Major General Bantu Holomisa, even mentions the possibility of Transkei becoming part of a federal dispensation." "It is common knowledge that the ANC rejects the current homeland dispensation, and it is not inconceivable that this would contribute to some Transkeians considering an alternative system which would generally be more acceptable."

THE NAMIBIAN

RSA Pulls Counterinsurgency Unit 'Fast Move'—An editorial on page 7 of indhoek THE NAMIBIAN in English on 6 October notes: "The head of the Commission Into Intimidation and Election Malpractices, Mr Bryan O'Linn, believes Koevoet [police counterinsurgency unit] members past and present are 'unfit' and 'perhaps untrainable' for normal police duties. So does this newspaper. It is with alarm, therefore, that we learn that even after the current demobilisation of 1,205 Koevoet members has taken place, at least another 1,800 will continue to serve in the South-West African Police (SWAPOL), which is charged with maintaining law and order during Namibia's transition to independence." "Will the UN Security Council (UNSC) be satisfied when they hear that, despite UNTAG's [UN Transition Assistance Group] efforts to make sure Koevoet was completely disbanded, a further 1,800 or more ex-Koevoet men will still be in the ranks of SWAPOL? For UNSC Resolution 640 demands the total disbandment of Koevoet in like with Resolution 435, and this will not be the case. However, there is now only a month to go until the elections and during this crucial month, every one of UNTAG's overstretched monitoring force will be needed to make sure the election period passes as freely and fairly as is at all possible in this conflict-torn

country. Further demands that the remaining 1,800 former Koevoet members are also demobilised, will absorb valuable UNTAG time and staff and could act as a diversion which would undoubtedly be exploited by those hell bent on disrupting/perverting the ideal of free and fair elections. Perhaps now is the time to call it quits, to admit South Africa has successfully pulled another fast move, and for UNTAG to get on with the job of keeping an eye on the 1,205 former Koevoet members who are now on the loose in the guise of private citizens."

13 Oct Press Review

MB1310112489

[Editorial Report]

THE CITIZEN

State Relaxations 'Emboldens' 'Radical' Demands—Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English on 13 October in its page 6 editorial says State President F.W. de Klerk's talks with Archbishop Tutu and Reverend Frank Chikane "lasted much longer than intended," which "shows Mr De Klerk really does want dialogue." THE CITIZEN refers to the churchmen's "implied ultimatum" that "if Mr de Klerk did not act in the manner they suggested, they would not call off the sanctions hounds. Instead, it is clear they will urge more sanctions, starting with the Commonwealth conference." "It is essential to get the negotiations for a new South Africa going—but the risks and problems that are going to be encountered will be many and unsettling. Each relaxation, each move by the government, emboldens the radicals, gives them the false belief that victory is theirs, and raises their expectations and demands."

THE STAR

De Klerk Must 'Prove' Reform Intentions—"The pressure is still on F.W. de Klerk notes Johannesburg THE STAR in English on 13 October in a page 10 editorial. "That is all the more apparent following his meeting this week with outspoken anti-apartheid clerics Desmond Tutu, Allan Boesak and Frank Chikane. In spite of the impending release of prominent political prisoners, the church leaders came away dissatisfied. And Mr de Klerk himself spoke ruefully of the level of mistrust that exists." THE STAR warns that De Klerk's undertaking "to tackle reform step by step will lose impact if his Government does not produce the initiatives." The government "move soon on the Separate Amenities Act, the Group Areas Act and the Population Registration Act. Mr de Klerk is not short of opportunities to prove his bona fides."

Mitchell's Plain Case Judgment Generates 'Disquiet'—A second editorial on the same page says the acquittal of two riot squad officers in the Mitchell's Plain assault case "serves to generate only more disquiet about the police role in breaking up the town centre demonstration last month." The "real outcome of the trial was an

indictment of the police, for at best, inefficiency; at worst, a cover-up. Implicitly the judgment is also an indictment of the emergency regulations which allowed the police to act as they did." "Intervention at the highest level is called for to prevent unruly louts in uniform sully the reputation of policemen."

BUSINESS DAY

Investigation Into Mitchell's Plain Assault 'Sloppy'—"A Cape Town regional court magistrate has, in acquitting two riot squad officers on charges of assault, found that despicable assaults did occur when police broke up a demonstration at Mitchell's Plain," observes Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English on 13 October in a page 8 editorial. "The reason for their acquittal, if we understand the court judgment correctly, is that the wrong policemen were brought before the court. The police who did carry out the assaults—the 'wild dogs'—have not been brought to trial. In short, the investigation of Rockman's charges was, at best, a sloppy and deplorable piece of police work." Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok "owes it to himself, if he can scrape together the resolution, to re-examine the fitness of his top officers."

Academic Urges Black Cooperation—Fatima Meer, Natal sociologist, writes on the same page that a "divisive tendency" emerged in the black liberation movement classifying people into "'collaborators' and 'liberators'". This categorisation—in a sense name-calling—has been affixed today to all incumbents of apartheid institutions, homeland governments, community councils, the members of the two inferior Houses of the tricameral Parliament, and these incumbents in most cases deserve the stigmatisation." However, she urges: "We should try to do away first with the inter-generational gap that has emerged and which is weakening the fabric of our liberatory movement; we should also do away with the kind of petty name-calling or divisive or puerile politics, which only result in hurting and distancing people, and instead try to strive, to work out ways and means whereby we can draw all disenfranchised blacks, together with all Democrats of whatever colour they may be, so that we may force the hand of the Nationalists."

SOWETAN

Acquittal of Two Police Officers Leaves 'Sour Taste'—"The acquittal of two police officers on charges of assaulting protesters at Mitchell's Plain leaves a sour taste in the mouth," remarks Johannesburg SOWETAN in English on 13 October in its page 6 editorial. "The magistrate had to walk a thin line that separates unlawful acts from those protected by the emergency regulations." "It is impossible to measure the resentment that is being generated by the emergency regulations, but in the end this country will pay the high price."

Government Must Negotiate 'Ceasefire'—In his "Perspective" column on page 7 Joe Thloloe writes that "De Klerk and the National Party are not thinking in terms of a South African nation that is bigger than an individual's colour, his language, his sex, or the size of the shoe he might wear. Whites are worried about being swamped? They should know better than that. They are Afrikaner, English, Portuguese, Greek, Polish—oh, a myriad tribes knocked into a white South African nation. Each of these entities still maintains its culture, but they are all loyal South Africans. They do not need any special constitutional guarantees." "Until the government negotiates a ceasefire—not a unilateral laying down of arms by the liberation forces—and sits down to negotiate a route to a non-racial democracy, De Klerk will continue to have problems."

THE WEEKLY MAIL

State Negotiates With Blacks at Local Level—Steven Friedman writes in his "Worm's Eye" column on page 14 of Johannesburg THE WEEKLY MAIL in English for 13-19 October "commentators continue debate whether the government will negotiate with black leadership. But few noticed that it began to do just that last week when the Transvaal Provincial Administration and the Soweto People's Delegation agreed to begin negotiating the township's future." "The local talks will also discuss the issues which must be negotiated nationally: the redistribution of wealth and power. At first glance, they centre around demands that Soweto enjoy adequate and affordable services and houses. But they are really about how to move beyond apartheid in our cities." The Soweto talks could be "a watershed on the path to a negotiated end to apartheid."

Ivory Coast

Political Bureau Lifts Ban on JEUNE AFRIQUE

*AB1210130589 Abidjan Domestic Service in French
1245 GMT 12 Oct 89*

[Text] We are continuing this newscast with a communique from the Political Bureau which has just reached me on the lifting of the ban on JEUNE AFRIQUE:

The Political Bureau is pleased to inform Ivorian militants and people that the ban on the publications of the JEUNE AFRIQUE Group is hereby lifted with effect from today, 12 October 1989.

Liberia

Vice President Leads Delegation to Taiwan

*AB0710181989 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English
1110 GMT 7 Oct 89*

[Text] A 15-man delegation headed by Vice President Harry Moniba is in Taipei, China, to discuss the reestablishment of diplomatic relations with the Republic of Taiwan [as heard]. Speaking to newsmen shortly before departure, Dr Moniba reiterated Dr Doe's call for Liberia to have diplomatic links with all peace-loving nations. He said while in Taipei, the negotiations will be made in order to encourage Chinese investors to take advantage of Liberia's natural resources. Those traveling with Dr Moniba include Planning Minister Elijah Taylor, Health Minister Martha Sendolo-Belleh, Finance Minister Emmanuel Shaw, Agriculture Minister Gblorzuu Toweh, and Deputy Foreign Minister William Bull, among others.

BBC Interviews Minister on Break With PRC

*AB1010213789 London BBC World Service in English
1615 GMT 10 Oct 89*

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] China today suspended diplomatic relations with Liberia. It follows the formal resumption of ties yesterday between Liberia and Taiwan. The break has been almost inevitable, as Beijing maintains that Taiwan is part of China. But the Chinese have a lot of money invested in Liberia, mainly in the foreign aid projects. On the line to Monrovia, Josephine Haisley asked Liberia's acting information minister, Moses Washington, if he had been expecting the break in Chinese relations.

[Begin recording] [Washington] Well, we think that the announcement came as a surprise because as an African country, we try to bring about reconciliation between, you know, divided groups and whatever we can do, as a sovereign nation, to bring about reconciliation in a country, we do that. So we did not expect them to have done what they've done. But again, this is just a suspension, it is not breaking off diplomatic relations.

[Haisley] But don't you see, minister, that China is saying that Taiwan is part of them and that by reestablishing ties with Taiwan, you are trying to create two Chinas, how....

[Washington] The People's Republic of China has the right to say what it wants to say and we think that being friendly with one side just to bring the other side together is in the best interest of both sides. Basically, this is our feeling, this is the feeling of the government of Liberia.

[Haisley] But this suspension will cost Liberia dear, it appears, in terms of projects that the government of China sponsors in Liberia, wouldn't it?

[Washington] Well, China has some projects that they have been going on with here like the construction of a new Ministry of Health and Social Welfare building, they have a hospital just about 50 miles away from Monrovia in Bomi Hill, where they have doctors, and then the management of the Samuel Kanyon Doe sports complex, which was also built by the Chinese. What we do know is that they've just suspended their relations with us. The ambassador leaves tonight and they are taking nothing away from here and they expect us to accord them the same action.

[Haisley] Are you hopeful then that, maybe, pretty soon yourselves and China will be friends again?

[Washington] Well, we are always hopeful that we will be friendly with all nations of the world and we think what has happened is just temporary and that there can be some solution (?to) be found somewhere. [end recording]

Government Reacts to Break

*AB1010215189 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English
2000 GMT 10 Oct 89*

[Text] The Chinese Government has suspended its diplomatic relations with Liberia today and said the Liberian Government should be held responsible for all the consequences. According to a position statement issued by the Chinese Embassy, her consistent position on the question of Taiwan has the outstanding respect and support of all the countries in the world that have established diplomatic relations with China. The statement said Red China will firmly oppose the establishment or reestablishment of official relations and conduct of exchanges of a governmental [words indistinct] with Taiwan by any country having diplomatic relations with Red China.

However, the statement said, China does not take exception to the economic exchanges, trade, and cultural contacts of entirely nongovernmental nature. China said that the Taiwan authorities will never succeed in their attempt to pursue what it described as the so-called substantive diplomacy to bring about dual recognition and to create two Chinas or one China and one Taiwan. The statement went on to say that the Chinese people cherish their friendship with the Liberian people. Red China said it hoped that the Liberian Government was

proceeding from the long-term interests of Sino-Liberian relationship, correct its decision and return to the principle position set forth in the joint communique on the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Liberia. [sentence as heard] It said this will aid to bring to normal the relations between the two countries as well as cause the friendly cooperation between them to continue to develop.

It should be recalled that on 2 October, the Liberian Government announced the reestablishment of its diplomatic relations with Taiwan. A joint communique was yesterday signed between the governments of Liberia and Taiwan in Taipei establishing full diplomatic relations. Red China said she is the sole legal government of China and Taiwan is an indivisible part of the Chinese territory. The statement said the Liberian Government, on the contrary, persisted in its decision in this regard of the position of the Chinese Government.

Meanwhile, according to the LIBERIAN NEWS AGENCY, quoting a Foreign Ministry release this evening, the Liberian Government regrets the decision by the Red Chinese. The release said although Liberia recently signed a joint communique reestablishing diplomatic relations with the Republic of China, it had hoped that the government of Red China would continue its cooperation in the long-term interests of Sino-Liberian relations.

Minister Denies U.S. Influence

*AB1110161089 Paris AFP in English 1522 GMT
11 Oct 89*

[Text] Monrovia, Oct 11 (AFP)—The Liberian Government said it "regretted" China's decision to suspend diplomatic relations to protest the establishment of ties Monday [9 October] between the West African country and Taiwan, a Foreign Ministry statement said here late Tuesday [10 October].

The ministry stressed its desire to establish relations with all peoples and nations regardless of the government's ideology and hoped that Beijing would lift the suspension and resume its ties with Liberia.

On rumors that the United States had influenced Liberia to re-establish relations with Taiwan. Acting Information Minister Moses Washington commented in a separate statement that no nation, "weak or powerful," would force Liberia to do what was not in the country's best interests.

He said the restoration of relations with Taiwan, broken off in 1977 when Liberia established ties with China, was "in the best interest of Liberia."

Chinese Ambassador Cao Yuanxin left Liberia on Tuesday with Soviet officials seeing him off at Roberts International Airport.

Meanwhile, construction work by the Chinese on a three-story Ministry of Health building and maintenance on the Chinese-built Samuel Doe Sports Complex has stopped.

A communique from the Chinese Embassy here said China suspended relations because Liberia "persisted in its wrong decision to establish ties with Taiwan in disregard of the Chinese Government's position that Beijing was the sole legal government representing the entire Chinese people."

Chinese Embassy spokesman Sun Jikong told journalists that "many Liberians know that money cannot buy friendship," in an apparent reference to news that Taiwan has agreed to grant Liberia 112 million dollars for road construction and the University of Liberia.

The Chinese diplomat said China has in the past 12 years "extended economic aid to Liberia in our best way."

END OF

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16 OCT. 89

